

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 319

INFO SECDEFENSE PRIORITY

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ PRIORITY

UNCLAS LA PAZ 02837

DOD FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS BL

SUBJECT: AIRLIFT ASSISTANCE REQUEST

1. BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT BANZER HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR CITY OF TRINIDAD'S POTENTIAL LOSS OF ELECTRIC POWER.

PRIMARY GENERATOR PROBLEMS HAVE REQUIRED BACK-UP EQUIPMENT WORKING AT PEAK LOADS, AND FURTHER COMPLICATIONS COULD RESULT IN TOTAL SYSTEM FAILURE. TWO DIESEL ELECTRICAL GENERATORS FOR TRINIDAD HAVE BEEN ACQUIRED BY GOB; HOWEVER, BOTH UNITS ARE NOW IN SANTA CRUZ AWAITING TRANSPORTATION. SIZE AND WEIGHT OF UNITS WILL REQUIRE AIR MOVEMENT IF EXPEDITIOUS TRANSPORTATION IS TO BE REALIZED, AND PRESIDENT BANZER HAS REQUESTED USAF AIRLIFT SUPPORT.

2. EQUIPMENT IN QUESTION CONSISTS OF TWO DIESEL GENERATOR UNITS, EACH MEASURING FIVE FEET FOUR INCHES BY SEVEN FEET TEN INCHES BY FOURTEEN FEET THREE INCHES, AND WEIGHING APPROXIMATELY EIGHTEEN THOUSAND POUNDS; PLUS TWO GENERATOR CONTROL PANELS, EACH MEASURING THREE FEET FOUR INCHES BY EIGHT FEET FOUR INCHES BY SIX FEET ONE INCH, AND WEIGHING APPROXIMATELY THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED POUNDS. PRELIMINARY STUDIES INDICATE REQUESTED MOVEMENT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH TWO C-130 TYPE AIRCRAFT MISSIONS.

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3. URGENCY AND SIZE OF MOVEMENT MAKES REQUESTED AIRLIFT UNSUPPORTABLE BY CIVIL CARRIERS. OUR FAVORABLE RESPONSE WOULD THEREFORE ASSIST IN RELIEVING PROBLEM IN TRINIDAD, WOULD REFLECT FAVORABLY UPON THE US MISSION IN BOLIVIA, AND WOULD BE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO PROVIDE USAF AIRLIFT AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

STEDMAN

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